Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, Hundreds of Americans die each year due to food-induced anaphylaxis and the deaths are caused by individuals unknowingly eating a food containing an ingredient to which they were allergic; and,

Whereas, Anaphylaxis is a sudden, severe allergic reaction involving major organs in the body simultaneously and in severely allergic individuals it can cause death in a matter of minutes; and,

Whereas, Children are the largest group affected by food allergies, and researchers estimate 6 to 7 million Americans have food allergies with symptoms to include hives, vomiting, diarrhea, respiratory distress, and swelling of the throat; and,

Whereas, Eight foods cause 90 percent of all food allergy reactions, and these foods are shellfish, fish, milk, eggs, nuts, peanuts, soy and wheat; and,

Whereas, Eating in restaurants and at school are the situations posing the highest risk for people with food allergies, and serving staff are not aware of the ingredients used to prepare the food and are unprepared to handle an allergic reaction; and,

Whereas, There is no cure for potentially fatal food allergies, and strict avoidance of the offending food is the only way to avoid a reaction; and,

Whereas, The Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Network (FAAN) is a national, nonprofit organization dedicated to educating the public about food allergies and anaphylaxis, a potentially life threatening allergic reaction:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim May 11-17, 2003, as

FOOD ALLERGY AWARENESS WEEK

in South Dakota, and I encourage communities to observe this week with appropriate programs and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-seventh Day of March in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Three.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State